United Nations A/70/690

General Assembly

Distr.: General
19 January 2016

Original: English

Seventieth session
Agenda item 20
Sustainable development

Letter dated 18 January 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey to you the attached information on outcomes of the socioeconomic development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2015 and the priorities of the economic programme in 2016 (see annex).

I would appreciate if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the seventieth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 20, "Sustainable development".

(*Signed*) Muzaffar **Madrakhimov**

16-00724 (E) 210116 210116

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 18 January 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Outcomes of socioeconomic development in Uzbekistan in 2015 and the main priorities of the economic programme in 2016

On 15 January 2016, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan met to discuss the country's socioeconomic development outcomes in 2015 and the main priorities of its economic programme in 2016. At that meeting, a presentation was given by Mr. Islam Karimov, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The President's report indicated that, despite the ongoing global financial and economic crisis, stable and sustained high rates of economic growth and macroeconomic balance had been achieved as a result of the consistent and systematic implementation of the main activities and priorities of the economic programme in 2015, a comprehensively designed programme to ensure far-reaching structural reforms and the reliable protection of private property and small business interests.

It was emphasized that achievements and prospects for the country's economic development, which were commended by authoritative financial and economic organizations and centres of learning, had reaffirmed the highly effective and successful development strategy chosen — one recognized worldwide as the "Uzbek model" of reform. The prestigious World Economic Forum had ranked Uzbekistan among the top five countries with the fastest growing economies in the world on the basis of its development in 2014-2015 and growth projections for 2016-2017.

At the end of 2015, the country's gross domestic product (GDP) had risen by 8 per cent, with an 8 per cent increase in industrial production, almost a 7 per cent increase in agricultural production and almost an 18 per cent increase in construction and installation work. The State budget was implemented with a surplus of 0.1 per cent of GDP. A positive balance of foreign trade was achieved. The level of inflation did not exceed projections.

A set of systemic measures are being implemented to fundamentally alter the ownership structure, to reduce the presence of the State in the economy and to change corporate governance principles and approaches. A modern governance structure has been introduced to all joint-stock companies.

A set of laws and regulations has been adopted to strengthen guarantees for and protect the legitimate rights of private owners and entrepreneurs, and to simplify and facilitate the establishment and implementation of entrepreneurial activities through one-stop centres that deliver public services based on the "one-stop shop" principle. Thanks to these measures, the share of GDP attributable to small business in Uzbekistan grew to 56.7 per cent, or by 1.8 times compared to the year 2000.

The active implementation of measures and projects for structural reforms, for the modernization, technical and technological updating of sectors and for the creation of modern infrastructure, ensured that investments were utilized in an

amount equivalent to US$ 15.8 billion, or 9.5 per cent more than in 2014. More than $3.3 billion or over 21 per cent of all investments were foreign investments, 73 per cent of which were foreign direct investment. Rapid development occurred in sectors focusing on high-technology end-products. One hundred and fifty-eight large manufacturing facilities became operational.

Fundamental structural changes are taking place in the agricultural sector. An ample harvest was grown, producing more than 7.5 million tons of grain and over 3.5 million tons of cotton. The dynamic development of fruit and vegetable cultivation, horticulture, vineyards and cattle breeding is under way, as well as the industrial processing of their products.

The service sector is developing vigorously. Paid services rose by 10.8 per cent and retail trade by more than 15 per cent. The contribution of services to GDP reached 54.5 per cent, compared with 49 per cent in 2010.

The banking system has been further strengthened, the level of capitalization increased and the investment activity of banks expanded. The total capital of the banking system increased by 23.3 per cent compared with the year 2014, reaching 7.8 trillion sum.

Sustained high rates of economic growth and services have established a solid foundation for further income growth, increasing the population's standard of living and quality of life. The wages of employees of State-funded organizations, as well as pensions and stipends, grew by 21.9 per cent, while total real income per capita rose by 9.6 per cent. The share of income from entrepreneurial activities increased to 52 per cent, compared with 47.1 per cent in 2010. More than 980,000 jobs were created, over 60 per cent of them in rural areas, and over 480,000 graduates of vocational colleges found employment.

The national programme for the Year of Attention and Care for the Older Generation has been implemented, for which funding from all sources amounted to more than 2 trillion 246 billion sum (over $225 million).

In his report, the President of Uzbekistan focused in particular on a detailed analysis of outstanding issues, on programme activities for further reform, deep structural transformations and economic diversification, and on critical national priorities in 2016.

The Government and heads of ministries, departments, economic associations and local executive authorities have been specifically tasked with developing and implementing a package of measures aimed at continuing ongoing systemic democratic reform and modernization of the country; deepening structural transformations, particularly in industry and agriculture; maintaining macroeconomic balance; ensuring rapid development; protecting private property, entrepreneurship and small business interests; accelerating the development of communications and road transport infrastructure; providing social services; and further improving the population's standard of living and quality of life.

Critical tasks have been identified in order to fundamentally increase the competitiveness of the economy, to enhance the support provided to exporting enterprises and to fully encourage small businesses and farms to participate in export activity. A set of additional measures have been identified for scaling up

modern information and communications technologies in sectors of the economy and for greatly accelerating the establishment of an e-government system.

The attention of heads of State administrative bodies, economic boards and local executive authorities has been drawn to the need to harness all available reserves and opportunities in order to fully meet projections for economic and social development, investment and new facilities for the current year, to make continuous technological upgrades for manufacturing and to achieve the balanced and integrated development of regions and economic sectors.

A particular focus has been placed on ensuring the implementation of programme measures to achieve the goals and targets set for the current year, established in connection with the declaration of 2016 as the Year of the Healthy Mother and Child, including measures to further strengthen the system for family, maternal and child welfare; to establish and enhance the logistical and human resources capacities of perinatal and screening centres, as well as nursing services; to improve the level and quality of care for young mothers and children; and to create a healthy spiritual environment in the family.

This meeting resulted in the adoption of a Government decision which identified practical steps to implement the main activities and priorities of the country's socioeconomic development programme in 2016.